

She had been actively involved in the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, serving as an officer.

She had assisted the NAACP in voter registration drives and attended organizing trainings at the Highlander Folk Center, an educational center for workers' rights and racial equality in Tennessee.

Years later, when recalling her actions and her subsequent arrest, Mrs. Parks had this to say:

At the time I was arrested I had no idea it would turn into this. It was just a day like any other day. The only thing that made it significant was that the masses of the people joined in.

However, that one day catapulted her to a leadership role in the civil rights movement and began the great 381 day Montgomery boycott of the bus system by African Americans and others dedicated to equal rights.

A young 26-year old Baptist minister, Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., organized the boycott.

Throughout her life, Rosa Parks remained a committed civil rights activist.

In the 1980s she worked in the anti-apartheid movement, and opened a career counseling center for black youth in Detroit with her husband.

She served the United States as an aide to U.S. Congressman JOHN CONYERS, a great civil rights leader in his own right, for many years.

In the last years of her life, Mrs. Parks was recognized for her role in our country's history.

She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded to civilians making an outstanding contribution to American life in 1996. In addition, President Clinton presented Mrs. Parks with the Congressional Gold Medal, the Nation's highest civilian honor, in 1999.

Despite the international attention and acclaim she received and the many lectures and addresses she gave as a public figure, Mrs. Parks has been described as quiet and reserved by her friends, co-workers and those who knew her best.

When she spoke, she spoke with a purpose.

She was indeed the mother of the civil rights movement, and her passing marks the end of an era that changed the landscape of America.

Today, I honor the courage and wisdom of Mrs. Parks.

I thank her for inspiring countless generations to dream of an America, and a world, that respects and includes all of its citizens.

#### SAFETEA-LU

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, on August 10 of this year the President signed into law the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, known as SAFETEA-LU. This new multi-year reauthorization of our Nation's surface transportation programs represents a

carefully balanced package intended to address the needs of our roadways and transit systems. The Chairman of the Transportation-Treasury-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, in his role as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on the Environment and Public Works Committee, was instrumental in striking that balance. As the Chairman has recognized, the Transportation-Treasury-HUD Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006 was reported by the Appropriations Committee prior to passage of SAFETEA-LU, and therefore does not fully reflect the agreements reached in that piece of legislation. To take one specific example, it does not fund the Federal transit program at the level authorized by SAFETEA-LU for fiscal year 2006, falling \$400 million short. The funding levels in SAFETEA-LU were the product of a great deal of negotiation, and I greatly appreciate the contributions my colleague from Alabama and my colleague from Missouri made to that discussion. I hope that in this, the first year of SAFETEA-LU's authorization, the agreements reached in SAFETEA-LU will be honored for all modes of transportation.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I agree with what my colleague from Maryland has said. SAFETEA is the culmination of many years of work by the committees of jurisdiction, who held dozens of hearings with transportation stakeholders to share ideas on how to respond to our nation's transportation needs. I believe that SAFETEA made some very important improvements to our previous transportation law and struck a good balance between the various modes, and I hope to see those changes reflected in this appropriations legislation when it emerges from the conference committee.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I agree with my colleagues that SAFETEA-LU is a carefully crafted approach to meeting our surface transportation needs, and will have a historic impact on transportation programs in my State of Missouri and across the country. I will make every effort to see that the final conference report on this legislation will honor the agreements reached in SAFETEA-LU between the various modes of transportation.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On February, 25, 2005, Thomas Stockwell was on the campus of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, when six men at-

tacked him. Before chasing Stockwell down the street and beating him up, the men were heard yelling sexually derogatory slurs at him. According to reports, the motivation for the attack was Stockwell's sexual orientation.

I believe that our Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, in all circumstances, from threats to them at home. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a major step forward in achieving that goal. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### ELECTIONS IN HAITI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise to express my strong concern regarding the political and economic situation in Haiti and the effect this will have on the upcoming elections in that country. The events of the last few months in Haiti have been dispiriting for those who have long sought stability and progress in that country. Due to the precarious political and security situation in Haiti, the question must be raised; can free and fair elections be carried out in Haiti on schedule? Or should they be postponed until we can guarantee a more favorable environment for legitimate elect to take place?

Nearly a year and a half has passed since President Aristide was removed from power and since then the country has continued to spiral downward into worsening poverty and political violence. The interim government of Prime Minister Gerard Latortue has failed to deliver stability and economic progress and for the fourth time this year, has postponed the date of the elections. Presently, elections are planned for December 15 and there is widespread concern that, if held, these elections will be anything but open, inclusive or fair.

Currently, the political and social climate in Haiti is not conducive for credible elections to take place. The Haitian people are largely ignorant about the electoral system and detached from the process. Out of a total of 4.5 million eligible voters approximately 870,000 people have actually registered, with supporters of the Lavalas Party—a large portion of the electorate—threatening to boycott. According to reports, voter registration stations have been placed in less than 500 locations in contrast with the 5,000 stations available under the Aristide administration.

Citizens are disenchanted over the lack of jobs, miserable government services, and rampant violence. As the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, four out of five Haitians live on less than \$2 a day and nearly half of the children in the country are malnourished. In the last year, there have been almost 800 killings and criminal and political kidnappings by urban armed gangs have reached historic levels. Only recently, after a shaky start, the